6. Guidelines for preparing environmental Atlas for siting of industries have been prepared and training programmes and workshops organised for State Pollution Control Boards for its implementation.

7. Pollution Awareness and Assistance Centre has been established.

8. Inventory of Ozone depleting substances have been completed.

9. Necessary hardware and software have been procured for getting information on CPCB Homepage (on Internet through NIC) - to know water and air quality status of India and eco-labelling products.

10. Studies relating to re-cycling of plastic waste has been completed.

11. Inventory of industrial estates in the State of Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi and Maharashtra have been completed.

(b) The details of the works of CPCB still going on are as under:

Surveillance of air and water quality, inventory of marine outfalls, pollution potential in ports and harbours, study of coastal fragile areas, Bio-monitoring of rivers, development of emission standards for petro chemical industries and pesticides manufacturing industry, preparation and implemetnation of Action Plan for "critically polluted problem areas", preparation of Zoning Atlas for industrial estate planning and siting of industries, solid waste management in agro-based industry, inventorisation of hazardous wastes and organising various mass awareness programmes.

(c) The year-wise amount spent on various works during last three years by CPCB is as under:

S. No.	Project Head	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
			(Rupees in lakhs)	
1.	Pollution Assessment	61.0	39.15	258.19
2.	Laboratory Management	92.60	104.51	128.16
3.	Development of Ecomark and standards	31.47	28.85	21.02
4.	Training	6.51	8.54	5.84
5.	Information (Data Base) Management	32.31	19.79	70.35
6.	Pollution Control Enforcement	76.69	119.36	135.45
7.	Pollution Abatement Technology	32.09	10.15	27.52
8.	Mass awareness	37.50	43.55	23.70
9.	Hazardous Waste Management	0.01	2.49	4.83
	TOTAL	373.00	376.39	675.00

Subsidy on Foodgrains and Sugar

*429. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed by the Government to provide subsidy on the foodgrains and sugar;

(b) the objective thereof and the details of achievements made in this regard; and

(c) the amount provided as subsidy to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) The Government pays to the Food Corporation of India the difference between the economic cost of foodgrains (wheat and rice) and their sale realisation as consumer subsidy. Carrying cost of buffer stocks is also reimbursed to the Corporation in the form of food subsidy.

Sugar is distributed through Public Distribution System (PDS) at a uniform retailer issue price throughout the country. The subsidy becomes payable as the retail issue price does not cover fully the ex-factory price of levy sugar, various taxes, cess and the distribution cost.

(b) The objectives of providing subsidy on foodgrains and sugar are to (i) protect the interests of the consumers at large, particularly the vulnerable sections of society, and (ii) protect the national interest by maintaining buffer stocks of foodgrains as a measure of National Food Security.

These objectives are met (i) by supplying foodgrains and sugar for the consumers, and (ii) by reimbursing the Carrying Cost of Buffer Stocks to the F.C.I.

(c) The amounts disbursed to F.C.I. as subsidy during the last three years were as under:-

(Amount in Rs. crores)

Year (s)	Subsidy on Foodgrain	Subsidy on Sugar
1994-95	4509	591
1995-96	4960	382
1996-97	5166	834

[English]

Purchase of Sub-Standard Potassic Fertilisers

*430. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Potash Limited have purchased sub-standard Potassic fetilizers from Russia;

(b) if so, whether an inquiry had been instituted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to discontinue the payment of subsidy for the sub-standard imported material;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken to stop recurrence of such incidents in future and action taken against the erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (f) Indian Potash Limited has not signed any contract with Russia/CIS suppliers for import of Muriate of Potash during 1996-97 and so far in the current year. However, IPL had signed a contract for supply of 4 lakh MTs of MOP of CIS origin during 95-96 which conformed to standards in terms of nutrient content, though deviating from particle size specifications. Relaxation has been provided to material conforming to nutrient content in respect of particle size.

Wheat Procurement

*431. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the target set and achieved regarding the procurement of wheat during the current season and financial incentives proposed to facilitate the achievement of wheat procurement target during the current season, State-wise;

(b) the response of the farmers and the action taken by the Government to achieve the target fully;

(c) the details of representations received from the State Governments and farmers, associations regarding the fixation of remunerative prices of wheat;

(d) the action taken thereon;

(e) the present status of the issues still remaining unresolved; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to resolve these issues?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The procurement of foodgrains under Price Support Scheme is voluntary in nature, of the farmers. As such, no targets for procurement are fixed. However, administrative and financial arrangements have been made for procuremet of about 110 lakh tonnes of wheat.

A total quantity of 28.09 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured in the current marketing season 1997-98 (upto 8.5.97). A statement showing procurement of wheat in 1997-98 season, State-wise is enclosed.

The Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed for wheat for Rabi Marketing Season 1997-98 is Rs. 415/- per quintal as against a price of Rs. 380/- per quintal in the previous season. The Government have also announced a central bonus of Rs. 60/- per quintal, in addition to the MSP, for wheat procured for the central pool during the period from 17th March, 1997 to 10th June, 1997. Thus, procurement price of wheat in 1997-98 season has been enhanced by Rs. 95/- per quintal which is 25% more than the price paid in the previous season. This increase in the MSP and the bonus are payable to the farmers in all the States/U.Ts. The Government have also decided to continue the ban on the export of wheat and wheat products over 1997-98 season and retain licensing and stock holding limits on wheat besides placing the wheat under Selective Credit Control. These measures are expected to result in higher procurement for the Central Pool.

(c) to (f) The Governments of Punjab and Haryana had requested for increase in the Minimum Support Price by atleast Rs.100/- per quintal and Rs. 135/- per quintal, respectively, in view of the high prices of wheat prevailing in the market. State Governments of other wheat procuring States had also expressed the view that increase in the MSP or payment of some bonus are necessary to ensure adequate level of procurement. Taking into account the view of the State Governments, the Central Government has announced a bonus of Rs. 60/- per quintal, in addition to the Minimum Support Price of Rs. 415/- per quintal, for wheat procured for Central Pool during the period 17.3.1997 to 10.6.1997. After this announcement, no other issue for increase in the price of wheat is pending with the Central Government.

Statement

Procurement of Wheat during 1997-98 season (upto 3.5.1997)

(Fig. in lakh tonnes)

Haryana	7.31
Madhya Pradesh	0.05
Punjab	19.56
Rajasthan	0.38
Uttar Pradesh	0.78
Total	28.08